

## Arabiyat pays tribute to ties with Russia

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat received at Parliament Saturday a delegation representing the Higher Soviet Council of Russia Federation. Dr. Arabiyat commended relations between Jordan and Russia, saying this relationship extends back to many years. He also reviewed the effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan and the Arab region and called for ending the embargo imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Dr. Arabiyat also dwelt on the plight of the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation and Israel's violations of international laws, pointing out to Israel's recent decision to expel 415 Palestinians from their homeland to Lebanon.

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## Cabinet holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved Saturday a recommendation by Social Development Minister Ammar Mashaqbeh allowing the Union of Voluntary Societies in Tafleah to purchase a piece of land to construct a building and to exempt the union all required fees. The Cabinet also approved a draft agreement on extending a loan worth five million ECUs (European currency units) to the Water Authority of Jordan to use it in Irbid and Ramtha water network project. It also approved Jordan's participation in the meetings of the permanent Arab Information Committee to be held in Cairo Jan. 5-7. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings will be headed by Director of Jordan Television Ibrahim Shukrada.

## Bashir urges rivals to reconcile with him

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir Friday called once more for a reconciliation with political opponents and affirmed his willingness to negotiate a peaceful solution with armed rebels in southern Sudan. We declare it again and again, the doors of Sudan are open to every one who wants to join in the national building of Sudan, Lieutenant-General Bashir said in a speech marking the 37th anniversary of Sudan's independence. "There is no exclusion or isolation for any citizen," he said in a live radio broadcast from Al Obied, capital of Kordofan in western Sudan. He warned Sudanese opponents now in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Britain and the United States, that "the masses will cast you away" if they do not respond to his appeal. Gen. Bashir.

## Moderate quake rocks south Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A moderate earthquake, measuring 4.6 degrees on the Richter scale, jolted Iran's southern Khuzestan province Saturday morning, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The quake occurred at 7:13 a.m. (0543 GMT), causing no casualties or major damage, it said. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the geophysics department at Tehran University recorded the epicentre of the quake 450 kilometres southwest of Tehran. The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. A quake of magnitude 5 can cause considerable damage.

## Chinese aide negative on British ties

HONG KONG (AP) — A senior Chinese official said he does not foresee any improvement in Sino-British relations unless Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten scraps his planned democratic reforms for the territory, a local television station reported Saturday. Television Broadcasts (TVB) quoted Lu Ping, director of Beijing's Macao and Hong Kong affairs office, as saying in an interview that if "Britain stands tough, then I will have to follow suit."

## Germany to use radar to stop illegals

FRANKFURT (AP) — Germany plans to use radar and infrared electronics to stop illegal entry of refugees, the government said Saturday. German officials estimate that a half-million people sought asylum in 1992. More than 2,100 attacks were reported against foreigners in 1992. Extreme rightists killed 17 people, including Germans and foreigners. Although the government and the opposition announced agreement last month on a plan to slash the number of refugees, the plan may unravel before parliament can act on it. In Bonn, Interior Ministry spokesman Roland Bachmeier confirmed a newspaper report that the government plans to install "modern radar and infrared electronic devices to catch refugees trying to enter the country illegally." The Bild newspaper said the devices were to make up for a shortage of border police to stop illegal asylum-seekers, mostly from Eastern Europe, who have been flooding Germany over its borders with Poland and the new Czech republic.

## Standoff continues over evictees; Husseini rejects Rabin's conditional offer

MARJ AL ZOHOUR (Agencies) — As 415 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories from Israel made do in between Israel and Lebanon, the two countries remained at an impasse over the return of 10 of them Israel says were mistakenly expelled.

Palestinian leader Faisal Al Husseini accused Israel of using the 415 as "hostages" by offering to release them early if the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the 415, could start returning in nine months if Palestinians immediately stopped the five-year-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabin added that he made the offer on Friday because he knew it was virtually "a pipe dream."

"I believe that this is a sort of taking hostages," Mr. Husseini told Reuters television. "I don't believe that taking hostages will help reach an agreement."

Mr. Husseini is overall head of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

The evictees' spokesman Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi also rejected the deal, saying the uprising was a response to the occupation.

Israel expelled the Palestinians on Dec. 17 for periods of nine months to two years. But Lebanon refused to take them in, saying it would not be a dumping ground for Israel.

(Continued from page 2)

## European border checks disappear

REMICH, Luxembourg (AP) — Mr. Petzinger into Luxembourg, business was humming for Mathias Kassel, who sells tobacco, liquor and coffee mostly to Germans attracted by Luxembourg's low value-added tax.

"This post is going to be staffed 24 hours a day, but I tell you, I don't know what we're going to do," he laughed as cars sped by, barely slowing down.

On Friday, Jan. 1, rules requiring customs and most passport checks among the European Community's (EC) 12 members came tumbling down.

"Last week there were thirty officers at this post," said Mr. Petzinger, who until Dec. 31 was a German customs inspector on the Moselle River between France and Germany. "Today, it's just me."

A New Year's day drive through four EC countries — France's coal-mining region of Lorraine, the industrial edge of Germany's Saarland state, Luxembourg and Southern Belgium — showed that most border crossings now resembled unmanned tollbooths.

Just a few hundred metres behind Mr. Petzinger into Luxembourg, business was humming for Mathias Kassel, who sells tobacco, liquor and coffee mostly to Germans attracted by Luxembourg's low value-added tax.

Allowing merchandise to circulate freely within the EC countries was part of the sweeping reforms that greeted the bloc's 338 million people with the arrival of 1993.

The five-page study, whose calculations are based on 1989 figures, does not include invisible losses suffered by local businesses as a result of delays and cargo diversion ordered by the enforcers of the sanctions patrolling the Red Sea.

The study says that "intransit imports" — the bulk of it for Iraq — passing through the port of Aqaba to 1.927 million tonnes in 1992 (excluding December figures) compared with 5.667 million tonnes in 1989 — a decline of 66.01 per cent.

The total decline in such imports since August 1990 is calculated at 10.75 million tonnes and based on an estimate that each tonne of cargo passing through Aqaba used to bring in JD 25 in revenues to the treasury, the loss was a total of JD 263.85 million (\$400 million); JD 59.375 million in the last five months of 1990, JD 115.95 million in 1991 and JD 93.525 million in the first 11 months of 1992.

"Intransit imports" totalled less than 44,000 tonnes in November 1992, compared with 515,572 tonnes in November 1989 and 569,962 tonnes in May 1992.

According to the study, "intransit exports" through Aqaba totalled 1.151 million tonnes in 1989 — an average of 95,900 tonnes a month. The U.N.-imposed embargo against Iraq brought such exports — Iraqi dates, urea, sulphur etc., — to a complete standstill since August 1990.

Based on the same formula of JD 25-a-tonne, the study says that the Kingdom lost JD 67.2 million (\$100 million) as a result of the total halt to Iraqi exports through Aqaba; JD 12 million in the last five months of 1990, JD 28.5 million in 1991, and JD 26.4 million in the first 11 months of 1992.

Five of the nine Mujahideen parties in a fractious leadership council, which oversees the working of the government, had boycotted the Hal-o-Aqad assembly and Mr. Rabbani's election, accusing him of bribing the delegates.

Council condemned Israel for the expulsions and demanded it take them back.

"I am completely at peace with the decision to temporarily remove over 400 political and organisational leaders and inciters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Hamas to stop the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

"If the heads of the PLO and Hamas say, 'we promise peace and quiet, a stop to the intifada ... for nine months, I would return them,' Mr. Rabin told army radio. "I am convinced it was the right decision."

Ten of the evictees who Israel said were exiled by mistake waited impatiently Saturday for a Red Cross representative to arrive at the camp and arrange their return.

But Lebanon has prevented the International Committee of the Red Cross's chief delegate to Lebanon, Bernard Pfeiffer, from entering the camp for two days.

The Israeli army said the 10 could return to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip through one of three crossings into its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

This would require passing through Lebanese-held territory and Lebanese official sources said they would not allow it.

The evictees have insisted on returning through the Zemraya crossing from where they were expelled, just two kilometres south of their camp. Zemraya was not among the three crossing named by Israel.

Neither country will allow humanitarian aid through its territory, each insisting the evictees are the other's problem.

All but a 16-year-old youth will

(Continued from page 2)

## Shipping, transport sector lost \$547 million

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has suffered a loss of at least \$547 million in revenues from port and cargo handling as well as transport charges since the imposition of the international sanctions against Iraq in August 1990, according to a study conducted by the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (JSAA).

The five-page study, whose calculations are based on 1989 figures, does not include invisible losses suffered by local businesses as a result of delays and cargo diversion ordered by the enforcers of the sanctions patrolling the Red Sea.

The study says that "intransit imports" — the bulk of it for Iraq — passing through the port of Aqaba to 1.927 million tonnes in 1992 (excluding December figures) compared with 5.667 million tonnes in 1989 — a decline of 66.01 per cent.

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Five of the nine Mujahideen parties in a fractious leadership council, which oversees the working of the government, had boycotted the Hal-o-Aqad assembly and Mr. Rabbani's election, accusing him of bribing the delegates.

Mr. Rabbani seemed to have secured the backing of more groups over the past few days, including a Hezb-e-Islami faction led by Mohammad Younis Khalis and powerful militia commander Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Mr. Rabbani, in his first public speech since his election on Wednesday, described those drawing battle lines against him as heretics, but asked for support.

He said opponents should bow to what he called the "nation's will and decision."

The official Kabul Radio said that the Hal-o-Aqad assembly that elected Mr. Rabbani had also approved the creation of a parliament, set up an army and ordered television and radio to conform to Islamic principles (see page 2).

"From now on I do not belong to any party but to the people of Afghanistan," he said in his speech delivered in the country's main Pashtu and Dari (Persian) languages.

But there was no immediate indication who will now head Jamiat, one of the main Mujahideen groups that fought the former Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

(Continued on page 2)



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) welcomes U.S. President George Bush on arrival in Moscow Saturday (AFP photo)

## Bush, Yeltsin sign 'historic' arms reduction accord today

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President George Bush's foreign farewell tour took him Saturday from the depths of despair in Somalia to the heights of superpower summity for the signing of what he called "the most historic arms control agreement ever made."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin greeted Mr. Bush with a handshake on the bitter cold day as a light snow swirled at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. They spoke briefly with each other before departing in a motorcade.

It was the fourth and final summit for Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin, as well as Mr. Bush's 25th and likely last trip abroad.

When Mr. Baker was secretary of state for Mr. Bush, he carried out many of the negotiations that led to the landmark START II nuclear weapons reduction agreement.

Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger arrived in Moscow aboard a third flight.

Mr. Bush planned to stop in Paris for a chat with President Francois Mitterrand on his way back to Washington Sunday.

It eliminates about 15,000 of the combined 21,000 warheads in the Russian and U.S. arsenals and rolls back two decades of the superpower arms race.

Mr. Mitterrand had been considering visiting Mr. Bush in Washington before President-elect Bill Clinton takes over Jan. 20, but "this just works out better to discuss issues such as Bosnia, Somalia and other areas where we're involved with the French," Bush spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said in a statement issued from Air Force One en route to Moscow.

Mr. Yeltsin was honouring the Bushes at a state dinner at the Kremlin's Hall of Facets on Saturday night. On Sunday, Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin will sign the treaty that slashes U.S. and Russian long-range nuclear arsenals by two-thirds over the next 10 years.

After U.S. and Russian negotiators finalised the document in Geneva on Tuesday, Mr. Yeltsin called START II the "document of the century" and the "most important achievement in relations between our two countries."

START-II, which supplements an earlier treaty signed by Mr. Bush and then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in July 1991, sets a ceiling of 3,500 nuclear warheads on each side by 2003 at the latest — or the year 2000, if Russia's economy can manage it.

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Besides signing START-II, the two leaders will hold talks on bilateral and regional issues.

Most significantly, it scraps the most destabilising weapons on both sides — land-based multiple-warhead missiles such as the Russian SS-18, an apocalyptic weapon capable of travelling 11,000 kilometres to strike the American mainland.

"It is brilliant news — that is how experts assess the meeting," Russian Television said, referring to the summit.

But the event otherwise aroused little excitement in Russian media, which were more concerned with new year festivities and economic hardship throughout the former Soviet Union.

"How can we continue to address the Israeli delegates, participate in negotiations, as long as those expelled are not allowed to return?" Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying.

"Israel will have to take a step backwards if it wants to avoid torpedoing the peace process," he said.

The PLO leader denied that there were any fundamental differences separating his leadership in Tunis and the Palestinian negotiators from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rabin wants to meet Clinton

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he wanted to hear U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's views on Middle East peace before the next round of peace talks.

## Ghali to discuss Somalia force's future

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali will argue his case for greater foreign military involvement in Somalia in talks Sunday with representatives of 19 countries with troops in the troubled country.

United Nations sources in Addis Ababa said Sunday's talks would precede a Somalia national reconciliation conference planned for Monday and Tuesday. Dr. Ghali was due to arrive in the Ethiopian capital Saturday.

Mr. Ghali has confirmed he will attend. A close aide of Gen. Aideed said in Mogadishu, the general was expected to tell the U.N. Saturday he will also participate.

At least 14 other factions which carved up Somalia into rival fiefdoms after the fall in January 1991 of President Mohammad Siad Barre have also been invited.

The key issues are how long the 35,000 foreign troops would stay in Somalia and whether they should disarm the warring factions as Boutros Ghali insists, the sources said.

## Kabul decides to form parliament, regular army

ISLAMABAD (R) — An assembly of national delegates in Afghanistan has approved the creation of a parliament, set up a regular army and ordered television and radio to conform to Islamic principles, state-run Kabul Radio said.

The Hal-o-Aqad assembly, which met Friday under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Maulvi Mohammad Shah Fazeli, approved a parliament formed from among 20 per cent of its 1,335 members elected from across Afghanistan, said the radio monitored in Islamabad Saturday.

The Hal-o-Aqad Wednesday elected Interim President Burhanuddin Rabbani as head of state for the next two years in a move attacked by several of the nine Mujahedeen leaders who make up the fractious leadership council.

The leadership council was set up to fill the political vacuum after the former communist government collapsed last April. Five out of the nine parties boycotted the Hal-o-Aqad, accusing Mr. Rabbani of influencing the delegates.

The Hal-o-Aqad decided to establish a regular army, which should be set up "mostly from the Mujahedeen groups," the radio said. It gave no details.

Various factions control the different regions of Afghanistan, and Kabul is divided into a patchwork of zones of control where rival Mujahedeen fighters clash

regularly.

The assembly ordered that all employees of the eight-month-old Islamic coalition government should be Muslim and demanded that all television and radio programmes be made in accordance with Islamic law.

Women have already been banned from reading the news on television.

The radio said no non-Muslim organisations would be allowed to run activities in the country. Gulbadin Hekmatyar, leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-i-Islami party, said this week he would regard the opening of the assembly as a declaration of war.

However Kabul radio said Mr. Rabbani had received assurances of support Friday from Younis Khalis, leader of a breakaway faction of Hezb-i-Islami.

Mr. Khalis had earlier refused to accept Mr. Rabbani's election saying it was against the wishes of the nation and the preaching of Islam.

Mr. Rabbani also met a group of army generals led by General Momin who represented General Rasheed Dostum, head of the former communist militia, the radio said.

"On behalf of the generals, General Momin congratulated Rabbani and promised to work within the Afghan army, cooperate with other forces in the country and obey the orders of the Defence Ministry and Rabbani himself," the radio said.

## Five gendarmes slain in arms heist in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Bandits cut the throats of five gendarmes and killed them in a bloody attack on a police station to steal weapons, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The daily newspaper Al Watan did not identify the bandits, but suspicion fell on the armed Islamic groups that have killed more than 250 police officers and soldiers in the past year.

The attack Friday at Laghouat, 400 kilometres south of Algiers, ranks among the bloodiest in the Muslim fundamentalist campaign to destabilise the country.

Al Watan, which has a good reputation for accuracy, reported that the five Gendarmes apparently surprised by the assailants, who made off with four machine-pistols and an assault rifle.

The information was not immediately confirmed by officials. As is their custom, the Islamic groups made no claim of responsibility.

The Islamic bands have waged a deadly underground campaign against the state since a military coup a year ago that blocked the Islamic Salvation Front from winning parliamentary elections.

Defence lawyers meanwhile walked out Friday of the military trial of 71 soldiers accused of conspiring with the fundamentalists to topple the government, a crime that carries the death penalty.

The 13 civilian lawyers claimed that the tribunal was prejudiced was committing "flagrant violations" of civil rights.

## Discussion of disarmament haunts Somalia

By Tina Susman  
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — Disarmament and what it might mean — is on everyone's lips as relief workers, U.S. troops and Somalis argue its merits.

To Gemmo Lodesani, deputy director of operations for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), lack of disarmament means dodging Mogadishu's killers, thieves and hijackers unless he pays for the protection of armed Somali guards.

To many Somalis, it means stashing guns under car seats or in closets and watching the gun prices plummet as foreign troops consider eliminating the rule of the freelance gun.

To the U.S.-led military coalition trying to make the country safe for famine relief work, it means seizing the gun-mounted pickups — known as technicals — and all other weapons that stand in their way.

On Tuesday, the coalition flooded Mogadishu with leaflets warning that heavily-armed vehicles, automatic rifles, machine guns and mortars "will not be tolerated." It said anyone pointing a gun at a member of the force "will be shot."

"Our goal is to get the gunmen off the streets and get the techni-

als off the streets. In areas we control, any open display of weapons we'll ... treat as hostile," U.S. Marine Colonel Fred Peck told reporters Monday.

But there are exceptions.

A Marine convoy heading to Mogadishu from Baidoa, 190 kilometres west, this week passed several technicals along the highway and did not stop them. Col. Peck said it would have slowed the convoy too much to seize every technical spotted.

At the same time in the capital, Marines were seizing vehicles with empty gun mounts. Col. Peck said unarmed technicals are targets because they can easily be converted back into lethal weapons.

Since the start of Operation Restore Hope on Dec. 9 U.S. officials have acknowledged the futility of trying to demilitarise a country steeped in guns with neither police nor a government.

U.S. special envoy Robert Oakey called disarmed "naive," and General Robert Johnston, commander of the U.S. forces in Somalia, suggested some well-disciplined militias could be integrated into a regular security force.

The military says the policy from the start has been to secure famine relief areas, not to act as a police force or to remove every weapon.

"I'm scared now — more scared than before," said Mr.

Lodesani, who was ambushed by two men firing automatic weapons Sunday night as he drove unarmed away from his office.

Mr. Lodesani scrambled out of the Land Cruiser and fled into a nearby tea shop, where he was confronted by a man with a long knife who stole his watch and quickly lost a vehicle to armed hijackers.

On Monday, another Care vehicle was hijacked and a Somali guard inside was shot dead.

Relief agencies say there is no question the foreign military presence has enhanced their ability to distribute food, but the problem of protecting Somalia once the visible weapons are seized is being dodged.

They also complain that aid workers themselves are more vulnerable to attack because they can no longer travel with a vehicle to a gunned-down car window.

"Somebody's got to confront the issue," said Cynthia Oster-

man, a spokeswoman for Care International.

If guns are under the floorboards, in the closet, and under the seats, the risk remains this place will fall back into anarchy."

Like most aid agencies, Care stopped travelling with armed guards after the Marines' arrival and quickly lost a vehicle to armed hijackers.

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Like

## Baath Party to appeal for legalisation

By Marjan M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Baath Arab Socialist Party (BASP) has appealed against the Ministry of Interior's decision to deny the group legal status. They have taken their case to the Higher Court of Justice and should have an answer within two months, said the party leader Ahmad Najdawi Saturday.

BASP is the second of three parties to be denied legal status in Jordan. The two others, the Jordanian Communist Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) have already appealed the Ministry's decision.

Mr. Najdawi told the Jordan Times that the Minister of Interior Jawdat Al Shabani, will be informed by the Higher Court of Justice that the appeal was made and he will then have two weeks to study the petition. The court has six weeks to hold a hearing and make its decision. According to Mr. Najdawi: "the party has a good chance of becoming legal

because the justice system is fair."

The Communist Party and the JPDP, both leftist party's much like the BASP, filed an appeal within one week of the ministry's decision.

Asked why the BASP waited three weeks to appeal the Ministry of Interior's decision, Mr. Najdawi said he hoped that the minister would reconsider his decision and avoid the hassles of a court hearing. "I hoped he would change his adamant attitude," said Mr. Najdawi.

Five of the eleven parties that have sought legal status have so far been legalised and three have been denied legitimacy.

The twelfth group, the Unionist Arab Democratic Party (UADP) is expected to apply for party status early this week. The parties that have been legalised so far are, the Jordan National Alliance, the Popular Union Party, Al Abd Party, the Islamic Action Front and the Al Mustakbal Party.

## Icelandic minister expected in Amman

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iceland's Minister of Communications Halldor Blöndal will be arriving in Amman on January 6 at the head of a delegation for a formal visit at the invitation of Minister of Tourism Yann Hikmat.

Mr. Blöndal, who is expected to discuss tourism along with other matters with Jordanian government officials during the four-day visit, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

Ministry Secretary General Naji Atallah told the Jordan Times that the question of tariffs for travel between the two countries will be one of the main topics on the agenda. At present, no direct flights exist between Iceland and Jordan and travellers have to arrange for their trips between the two countries through a third country, said Mr. Atallah. A potential agreement between Royal Jordanian (RJ) and Iceland Air is expected during the visit, according to Mr. Atallah, who said that this will boost tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

According to the Icelandic consul in Jordan, Mr. Blöndal will be accompanied on the visit here by his wife, the vice president of Iceland Air, the director of tourism, the secretary general of the ministry of communications and other assistants. The meetings will cover tourism and travel as well as cultural matters, said the Consul Stefania Khalifa, who added that Jordan established diplomatic ties with Iceland in 1990 and is the only country in the Middle East with diplomatic ties with Iceland.

Mrs. Khalifa said that the establishment of relations followed a visit to Iceland by His Majesty King Hussein in 1989.

She said that the president of Iceland has received invitations from the King and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal to visit Jordan and the visit could take place any time during his present term in office.

According to Mr. Atallah, tourists from Iceland and the other Scandinavian countries declined this year due to the economic recession affecting Europe. But he hoped that tourist groups will resume their trips to Jordan in the coming year.

## Regulations to be enforced in construction sector

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality and the Jordan Engineering Association (JEA) Saturday announced an agreement on measures to be followed in the construction sector designed to prevent violations of the building codes.

The new instructions which concern concrete work, should be applied in all projects regardless of their volume and area. Under the new regulations, the engineering office which supervises the construction work is to be held responsible for implementing the regulations on the site of the project while the Amman municipality's task will be confined to technical supervision.

## Tawjiji exams begin

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 73,342 students will Sunday sit for the first session of the Tawjiji examination as prepared by the Ministry of Education for public and private schools in Jordan.

Ministry sources said that 975 have been prepared for the examination session which will last until January 14. The ministry said that marking papers and assessing the results of the examinations will begin immediately after each session and results should appear before the end of February.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

Caricature exhibition by cartoonist Naji Al Ali at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Art Gallery.

### FILM

Film entitled "Dirty Harry", at the American Centre — 5



PREMIER MEETS EX-ALGERIAN PRESIDENT: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received at the Prime Ministry Saturday former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella who is on a private visit to Jordan. The meeting reviewed the situation in the Arab World and the latest developments in the Middle East region.

## Irbid radio goes on air

IRBID (J.T.) — Local radio station went on the air Friday with broadcasts covering local affairs and issues of common concern to the public.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, commenting on the start of the broadcasts, urged the radio station to serve as a platform for people to express their views concerning public matters, and also to give officials the chance to reply to complaints.

The new station in Irbid ought to allocate time for discussion of development projects in the Irbid Governorate, he said. He added that the new radio station would reflect the real concerns and official views of the public and the officials alike.

## University professor urges Arabs to reject violence

AMMAN (J.T.) — A prominent Egyptian university professor and former minister of information has urged Islamic movements of the Arab World to abandon the path of violence and embark on a new course of action to achieve their goal.

Dr. Ahmad Kamal Abu Majd, a Cairo University professor said that no, one can listen to the Muslims if they only demolish or destroy. "The hands that do not plant food or manufacture goods would never represent a pioneering work," he said in a lecture entitled, "Towards a new Islamic trend," delivered at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Amman.

Dr. Abu Majd said that the Islamic movements should give attention to the future of the Islamic community and therefore should avert any destruction methods which were adopted in the pre-Islamic era of Arab history.

Dr. Abu Majd demanded that Arab governments punish those who violate the law and he called on all factions within the Islamic community to seek negotiation and dialogue rather than confrontation.

Should the municipality find buildings to have been erected without licences and permits concerning concrete, the JEA will be alerted. It said that the JEA can later follow up on such violations and take the proper actions.

The number of students taking the literary topics is 38,833, scientific topics 21,233, commercial 5,594, agricultural 2,680, industrial 3,405, nursing 1,293 and hotel management subjects 220.

The ministry called on students to strictly abide by the given regulations and instructions concerning the examinations procedures.

Despite all of this, our (Arab) governments and leaderships are still talking about peace, while the enemy is still occupying our land, and evicting our people and preparing its troops for new fights," he said. The deputy criticised Arab governments for their continued compromises in the peace process despite the fact that such compromises affect Arab national interests. "They offer compromises after compromises, recognise the enemy, accept opening their markets and accept all its demands although these compromises harm our pan-Arab sovereignty and interests," he said.

Deputy Mirad went on to call for mobilising masses in Jordan, Palestine, the Arab world and the Islamic countries to be able to confront "the camp of infidelity represented in the main enemy of American imperialism, the Zionist entity and the international Zionist movement." He said that these forces were planning to decimate the Arab nation and steal its fortunes and he ruled out any possibility of having peace as long as Israel is still occupying

frontation. He also called for expanding the base of government so as to dilute the pressure of opposition.

The Egyptian professor also urged Muslims to base man-woman relationship on affection because, he said, it is a sacred relationship. "In many of our Arab countries the women are banned from going out and are subjected to numerous constraints in the name of Islam," he said. "Such behaviour is totally conflicting with the teachings of Islam," he added.

Why should many Muslims feel ashamed to call their wives by their names at a time when they realise that the Prophet Muhammad used to call his wives by their names?" asked the professor. "As a mother, and partner, a woman should never be prevented from going out to work," Dr. Abu Majd added.

Dr. Abu Majd demanded that the Arab and Islamic mentality is in need of a surgery. He said that even the Friday sermon, which is marked by shouting, rather than preaching ought to be changed, and Muslims have to have a new outlook to the modern world.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company Mohammad Abu Hassan delivered an address in which he said the detergents factory produced 17,000 tonnes of detergent in

## House to debate draft budget for 1993

Finance committee focuses attention on alleged mishandling of funds

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament will Sunday debate the fiscal budget for 1993 and will hear accusations from the Financial Committee accusing a number of ministers of misappropriating public funds.

A report to be reviewed by the Lower House in Sunday's session stated that a number of cabinet ministers are dispensing with public funds with which they had been entrusted in a manner that would serve their election purposes. Most of these ministers are also Parliament members.

The report which was quoted Saturday by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, called for immediate examination into these cases which it described as a "dangerous phenomenon."

The committee's report contained a number of points related to inefficiencies in public administration work in Jordan. The committee said that it had noticed varying degrees of negligence and administrative malpractices in government offices' long-winded procedures, the shortage of skilled staff, tight centralisation, and favouritism were said to be behind the malpractices. The committee said that many offices have failed to put the right person in the right position.

Other aspects of the report included a recommendation that the government ought to raise by JD 20 a month the salaries of the armed and security forces, as well as the civil servants. It also called for the improvement of living conditions and extra payments to retired officers and civil servants. The financial committee has also

completed its examination of the fiscal budget draft which was presented to the House by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh last month. Mr. Jardaneh's report outlined the government's economic and financial performance in the past year and showed that the government has succeeded in covering current expenditure with domestic revenue for the first time in Jordan's history.

Earlier the House's judiciary committee under the chairmanship of Salem Al Zoubi who said that the committee endorsed a draft amendment to the telecommunications law. The committee also studied and recommended to the House the endorsement of the draft law on the general farmers federation.

In a separate development, the Upper House of Parliament held

a session Saturday in which it referred a number of draft laws to various committees. Meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Bahjat Talhouni the House referred to the finance committee a draft agreement between Jordan and China on economic and technical cooperation. and it referred to its judiciary committee a draft law on the Sahab municipality court, a draft law on the Russeifa municipality court, a draft law on the state security court, a draft law on press and publications and a draft law on civil defence.

The senate's meeting was attended by Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi and cabinet members. Mr. Talhouni was sitting in for speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi who is reported to be ill.

## Petra news agency plans work stoppage for more pay

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two British members of parliament discussed Middle East issues with Jordanian Parliament members Saturday and expressed an understanding of the Jordanian position and the country's important role towards re-establishing stability and peace in the region.

The two members of the House of Commons Robert Adey and John Raffore first met with the Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Taher Al Masri who urged Britain to exercise pressure on Israel to respect U.N. Security Council resolutions in general and to implement Resolution 799 which orders Israel to repatriate the 400 Palestinian evictees.

Mr. Adey called on Europe and Britain to take into consideration their historic ties and common interests with the Arab World and help ensure the establishment of peace in the region.

The two British MPs later called on Ahmad Obeidat, member of the Upper House of Parliament and Senate members to discuss the situation in the region and developments in the Palestine

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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Facsimile: 661342

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## Compliance needs will

AS 415 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories prepare to spend their 18th night in freezing weather conditions in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in southern Lebanon, Israel continues to make a mockery of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

To the dismay, yet in no way to the surprise, of those familiar with its belligerent policies in the region, Israel has proposed a solution that it knew would be rejected not only by Palestinians and Arabs but also by all countries and organisations who uphold international law and respect human rights.

Stop the intifada and the expelled Palestinians will be allowed to their homes in nine months, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's unacceptable proposal said. He knew perfectly well though that the intifada is an expression of a people's rejection of occupation. Furthermore, Rabin knows Palestinian struggle will not stop before his tanks and special killing squads end their colonisation of Palestinian land.

Practically speaking, the Israeli proposal is unacceptable, first, because it is an ugly form of political blackmail and, second, because it compares a legitimate struggle for independence and dignity to a brutal act of denying people their basic right to safe and dignified life in the land of their ancestors. Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians was a clear violation of the rights of people living under occupation as stipulated by the Fourth Geneva Convention. Rabin's refusal to redress this grave wrong is therefore yet another example of his government's defiance of and disregard to international legality.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has said he will ask the Security Council to take the necessary measures as "it sees fit" to end the plight of the evictees when his special envoy to the area told him of the failure of his mission.

Necessary measures that the Security Council should "see fit" must mean working out a mechanism that would force Israel to abide by U.N. resolutions. The issue is crystal clear: The Security Council issued Resolution 799 demanding the return of the expelled Palestinians to their homeland; Israel has rejected the decision; and, as has been the case with Iraq, Yugoslavia and Libya after the birth of the "new world order," the "fit" action should allow for punitive measures against Israel.

Israel has too often rejected U.N. resolutions because it counted on the support of its allies, mainly the U.S. It would naturally continue to reject 799 and all other future resolutions unless the U.N. gives it reason to believe that this time around it means business and will force compliance with those resolutions.

Under the "new world order," this should not be too much to expect from the United Nations, or is it?

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Saturday said that the Israeli leaders have been resisting Arab countries' endeavours to establish a permanent and just peace in the region, noting that the deportation of Arab citizens to Lebanon was just another instance of the obstacles that the Jewish state is placing in the path of peace. The Israeli media is now blaming the Arabs and the *intifada* for the failure of the peace process, but it is saying nothing about Israel's organised acts of terrorism and intimidations against the Palestinians and the stubbornness of the Israeli negotiators and the Israeli government at the peace process that rendered the talks futile so far, added the daily. The paper said that the deportation of the Palestinians from their homeland was perhaps the straw that caused the break of the talks although previous Israeli actions and atrocities were also intended to achieve the same goal. The Israeli media can by no means absolve the Israeli leadership of the crime it has committed and can by no means change the facts on the ground and brighten the Israeli image before the world, said the paper. The daily added that shedding crocodile tears over the failure of the Middle East process can by no means improve the situation and help the talks succeed. Only when Israel stops its atrocities, repatriates the deportees, accepts the U.N. resolutions and shows willingness to implement Security Council resolutions on Palestine can the whole region enjoy peace, said the paper. It said that as long as Israel continues to abort Arab countries' bids to achieve the aspired just peace, the cycle of violence is bound to continue and peace will remain absent.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily tackled the border dispute between Egypt and Sudan. Any Arab country can only express regret and deep pain over the news that Egyptian troops have invaded Sudanese territory, violating all principles and laws and further causing damage to inter-Arab relations, said the daily. Egypt's unexpected step against Sudan at this moment can only give justification to suspicion and anxiety, which has long haunted the Arab masses in the two countries who have feared a confrontation, said the daily. Egypt should have learnt the lesson from the Gulf crisis that only through dialogue and a peaceful negotiation can an amicable settlement be reached between neighbours and not through confrontation that tends to cause further divisions among the Arab states. The paper said that while Cairo is more than any other Arab capital enthusiastic about ending the conflict with the Israeli enemy by peaceful means, it is trying to settle its dispute with Sudan by force, something which is detrimental to Arab national interests.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Salaries hiking — why not?

By Dr. Fahed Al Faik

Raising the scale of salaries is no doubt a good thing in itself. It means raising the standard of living of all salaried people, starting with the public sector which employs around 40 per cent of the labour force in the country, followed by the private sector which employs 50 per cent of the labour force, assuming that 10 per cent of the manpower are self-employed.

However, there are at least three problems facing such a proposition:

The first problem is that the budget for 1993 still has a net deficit of JD48 million, plus the value of installments payable on internal and external indebtedness, amounting to JD311 million, plus interest and principal due on the indebtedness of the "armament fund" which is dealt with off-budget and exceeds JD200 million in 1993. Around JD290 million of the above sizeable deficit will be covered by fresh external borrowing, amounting to JD290 million, and internal borrowing, amounting to JD70 million. Any increase of salaries and wages, beyond the usual annual increments allowed for in the budget, will be added to the above deficit.

The second problem is that what we call raising the standard of living by raising salaries is nothing but raising consumption without a corresponding increase in production, and raising imports and

widening the deficit in the trade balance and the balance of payments. It was determined that each JD100 of extra cash income is bound to cause JD50 of extra imports.

The third problem is that the government practically adopted the policy of creating more jobs, even at the expense of inflating the public administration apparatus. The government is planning an increase in civil service staff by six thousand in 1993. The logic behind this policy is that creating jobs for the unemployed has priority over improving the income of those who already have jobs, especially when sufficient funds to satisfy both desirable objectives are unfortunately not available.

Therefore, the members of Parliament who called for hiking salaries by JD20 each in this election year, may gain some popularity. They will raise the expectations of the employees which, most likely, will end up in disappointment, but they may be rightly accused of political opportunism. They are pressuring the government to make difficult decisions that will definitely increase the deficit in the budget, cause more consumption and importation, and reduce the capacity to create new jobs. Those Parliament members therefore are required to support their demands by specific sources of new financing, or ways and means to reduce expenses, that are practical,

acceptable, and make sense.

We are entitled to be told whether the Parliament members, especially the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, want the government to step up external borrowing or to order the central bank to print more inflationary money to finance the treasury or if they prefer to hike taxes and fees. There is no other way to raise around JD100 million to finance their suggestion which entails more recurring public expenditure.

Until such time when the Finance Committee comes up with a specific reply, it would not be fair to report to the public that the Parliament, the Brotherhood bloc or the Finance Committee demanded an increase in the salaries of civil personnel. It should be reported to the people that the above politicians are asking for more deficit in the budget, more consumption, more imports, less new jobs, and a setback in the march towards self-sufficiency and financial independence. In other words, they are acting irresponsibly.

In this democratic environment there is no room for political opportunism. Those who make popular demands should call a spade a spade, otherwise we shall translate their code language as we have done above. Popularity is not that cheap and easy to come by any more. It takes responsibility, creativity, and courage.

## UNRWA in its 42nd year

By Pascal B. Karmy

The commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) submitted his annual report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on Nov. 2, 1992. His report covered UNRWA's activities during the period July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992.

UNRWA was established as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations by virtue of General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of Dec. 8, 1949. Its field of operations covers Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNRWA was intended to primarily devote to meeting the relief needs of the Palestine refugees displaced by the 1948 war into one concerned with the administration of quasi-governmental services, such as public education, public health, vital statistics, social welfare, in addition to purely relief assistance. Through the tireless efforts of the previous commissioner-general, Dr. John Davis, and his deputy, the late John Redaway, the agency concentrated its activities from 1959 to 1964 on the classical and technical education of the Palestine refugees. As a consequence, scores of vocational centres and schools were built in the five fields where the agency operates and a good number of Palestinian students were sent for training in various technical professions to England, Germany, France, Sweden and Denmark. Dr. Davis believed that the training given at the agency's vocational centres will enable graduated students to get employment easier and, hopefully, to remain employed and self-supporting throughout their lives.

Fortunately for the agency, it is presently headed by an energetic commissioner-general, Mr. Turkmen, who, from his declarations, reports and activities, shows that he has fully grasped the human and political dimensions of the Palestine problem. Of course, in his high capacity as a United Nations official, with the rank of under-secretary, Mr. Turkmen is expected to be impartial, but this does not prevent him from observing and reporting with objectivity on the tragic events which occur to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

### Duties

Initially, by Resolution 302 (IV) mentioned above, UNRWA was given two main duties: first, to carry out, in collaboration with local governments, the direct relief and works programmes for the Palestinian refugees, and second, to consult with the interested Near Eastern governments concerning the measures to be taken by them preparatory to the time when international assistance for relief and work projects is no longer available. The resolution had also set up an Advisory Commission to advise and assist the agency. The present Advisory Commission consists of representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Japan. It should be remembered that UNRWA is to be clearly distinguished from the United

### Predictions

In his introduction to the annual report, the commissioner-general states: "It is to be hoped that the year under review will be remembered as the one in which moves began towards a settlement of the Palestine question and the broader Middle East conflict. The historic meeting in Madrid, in October 1991, attended by Israel, the Arab states and a Palestinian delegation, was followed by further meetings in Washington and discussions on a number of issues, including the refugees question, held in Ottawa in May 1992."

But the commissioner-general adds: "In sharp contrast to the optimism created by the opening of the peace talks, the situation in the occupied territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remained critical, since no significant relaxation in the traditional pattern of Israeli occupation policies occurred. In general, tension remained higher for several reasons. The lack of correlation between positive developments at the political and diplomatic levels and events affecting the daily life of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, were a cause for concern. Conditions in the refugee camps, especially in Gaza, were appalling for many of the inhabitants. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) repeatedly emphasised the need for peace negotiations at the international level to be accompanied by confidence-building measures affecting the daily life of the Palestinians in the occupied territory."

Previously, Dr. Davis has predicted the following: "Progress

more so in the occupied territories. The influx of Palestinians from Kuwait to Jordan, numbering about 300,000, has increased the agency's burdens. A great majority of them sought UNRWA's assistance in one way or another. There were about 10,000 pupils among the refugees, returned from Kuwait and other Gulf states, which the agency had to absorb in its schools by using the double-shift system.

### Work in the occupied territories

The commissioner-general reported the following: "The Agency continued to face difficulties in operating in the occupied territory. I was concerned on numerous occasions about the safety of UNRWA staff, both area and international, who met with frequent harassment by the Israeli security forces and, from time to time, threats and attacks by some elements in the Palestinian population. The agency made repeated protests to the Israeli authorities regarding harassment of

attempted to address this problem through its income-generating and job-creation programmes. The loss of remittances which had been sent by Palestinians who had been living in Kuwait and the Gulf states caused serious financial problems for Palestinians living in the occupied territory and Jordan."

The commissioner-general added: "The agency was continuing its contacts with the government of Kuwait regarding the estimated 25,000 to 30,000 Palestinians remaining in that country."

### Financing

With regard to the financing of the agency, the commissioner-general announced to the annual Pledging Conference, held in New York on Dec. 2, 1992, that the agency has total budget requirements of some \$297 million for its core programmes in 1993 as well as needing \$14 million to continue emergency operations in Lebanon and in the occupied territories. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the states

attempted to address this problem through its income-generating and job-creation programmes. The loss of remittances which had been sent by Palestinians who had been living in Kuwait and the Gulf states caused serious financial problems for Palestinians living in the occupied territory and Jordan." The commissioner-general added: "In the event of the peace process leading to an interim period of self-government, the agency, with thousands of skilled Palestinian staff in the occupied territory and a vast infrastructure, is prepared to play whatever role the parties to the negotiations and the United Nations determine. While we all look forward with hope to the achievement of positive results, the agency's crucial role in providing education, health and relief and social services for the Palestine refugees will continue throughout its area of operations."

The commissioner-general appealed once more to the international community to ensure that the agency is supplied with the resources and support it must have if it is to carry out the will of the General Assembly which represents the international community.

Mr. Turkmen and his staff deserve credit for their abnegation and services rendered to the Palestine refugees and for their efforts in steering the agency under extraordianrily troubled circumstances in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The annual report was factual and unbiased and it is indeed, among other matters, an incontrovertible documentary evidence of the horrible Israeli occupation.

## When will it be okay to be an Arab?

By Leila Gorchev

WHEN THE fabulous, centuries-old Arab folk tale of Aladdin's adventures was transformed into a Disney feature film, Americans held their breath, eager like all interested in animation and fantasy, yet wary. The unease stems from years of experience in seeing the Arab image distorted by filmmakers, cartoonists, TV series scriptwriters and news editors.

Common stereotypes have become cemented in the media industry's stockpile of "instant Arabs." These images range from a half-clad veiled flock of belly dancers making up a "harem" for their polygamous "master," to bearded terrorists in urban settings and oil-rich rulers called "sheiks" of unsavoury desert lands.

Contrary to this past tradition, Disney's "Aladdin" offered two young heroes who did not comply in character with any of the past infamous ones. Jasmine made her

own wedding decisions, the sultan complied with her desires and Aladdin had eyes for only one wife. These values were imparted to moviegoers in an unprecedented way, by Arab characters. But the question remains: What image of Arab culture emerges from the movie? And were these characters presented as Arabs to "Aladdin's" viewers at all?

"Oh I come from a land, From a faraway place, Where the caravan camels roam, Where they cut off your ear It's barbaric, but hey, it's home."

Not only are the characters from this unusual place, they also speak with an unusual mix of accents. The three main characters, Jasmine, Aladdin and the Genie, have Anglo-American accents. The Arabic words used in the movie, Disney dreamt up the fictitious city of "Agrabah." Given the numerous films that have been produced and fuelled by political agendas, it's often probably better when the locale remains un-

cognate. The ones with foreign (or Arab) accents are mainly conspirators, thieves, guards or the people of the street. If Disney were to be believed, one could come to the understanding that these are foreign, or specifically Arab attributes. In fact, though, pitting Americans against Arabs is not required by the story line and it does a disservice to all non-native English speakers.

The expression of an Arab-American's national origin (through physique and sometimes through accent) still elicits prejudice from many. It has led to such discriminatory acts as airline personnel harassment or crimes of hatred. Most hate crimes recorded in the past four years were committed against Arab-Americans as the United States intervened in Iraq.

We so challenge Disney and other film companies to offer all-American heroes who demonstrate their Arab heritage with pride and subtlety, while reflecting a balance of character traits like members of all ethnic or national groups. When this precedent is set, the media may be able to let go of their cultural and political baggage. Clearly,

"Aladdin's" purpose is not to have viewers reflect on positive aspects of the Arab World, but why should this not be a possible consequence of its viewing?

In effect, the tale is a rich one of universal appeal, full of insight about human character, values and goals. Its adaptation should not demean its Arab heritage. One modern example on which Disney was able to put forth an element of Arab culture and combine it with an American saying was when the Genie suggests to Aladdin: "Wake up and smell the hummus." Combining both Arab and American cultures in a phrase is a step in the right direction. It's okay to be Arab.

The writer is media coordinator for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. The article is reprinted from the Washington Post.

Leila Gorchev

## Siege mentality makes Israel feel threatened from every quarter

By Fran Sikorski

Dr. Edward McDonough has experienced first-hand the place of forensic medicine in "politically-explosive human rights issues."

As Connecticut's Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, the Bethel resident vividly describes an "one-sided experience" his four-day trip to Israel. He was there to observe an autopsy on Mustafa Barakat, a Palestinian student who died suddenly while being interrogated in a West Bank jail.

Although not a member, Dr. McDonough represented Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), a Boston-based organization of 2,500 American doctors, when he went to Jerusalem. He was invited after Dr. Robert Kirschner, Chicago Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, was unavailable and the assignment was given to Connecticut Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Wayne Carver who couldn't go either.

"I was in the right place at the right time," says Dr. McDonough. "I was told about the assignment Aug. 5 and left Aug. 6."

Identifying PHR, Dr. McDonough, who lives with his wife Kathleen Johnson and four children, says it is "an organization which concerns itself with the medical consequences of

human rights abuses regardless of the ideology of the offending government or group."

Dr. McDonough arrived in Tel Aviv after a 9,000 mile, 10-hour flight. "I was met at the airport by members of the Palestinian Human Rights group called Al Haq and a female attorney for the family who briefed me on the incident.

"Twenty-three year-old Mustafa Barakat who was from Amman, had been studying in Amman, Jordan with his cousin for three years. One July 29, he was returning home when he was given a summons to report for questioning, but he did not appear for several days. When he did show up, he was confined at the Tulkarem prison.

"To prevent her brother from being mistreated by a foul-smelling bag placed over his head with his hands tied behind his back, Mustafa Barakat's sister purchased an inhaler at a pharmacy and gave it to him, hoping the guards would show sympathy towards him. I was actually told two stories about the interrogation," says Dr. McDonough.

By observing the autopsy and also questioning the student's family, Dr. McDonough learned

that although he had been troubled by several childhood allergies, Mustafa Barakat had never had an asthmatic attack before he suffered the fatal one in the prison.

Although Dr. McDonough co-chaired with Israel's forensic pathologist chief medical examiner Dr. Juhud Hiss that the Palestinian's death was the result of an asthma attack, he said his "gut feeling" was that the fatal attack was the result of mistreatment by his Israeli interrogators, and from being forced to wear a "foul-smelling fabric bag over his head with his hands tied behind his back during the lengthy interrogation."

Dr. Hiss conducted the autopsy and I was the independent observer. Mustafa Barakat's family wanted an autopsy because no one could remember his ever having an asthma attack.

"We also met with several Israeli officers and the meeting was conducted in Hebrew. I was shown the quarters where the student, who was to be married Aug. 8, was detained. The cell was hot with no window, and that's where the fatal asthmatic attack occurred. My report shows the student died there from an asthma attack, but you could

have an asthma attack anywhere. I concluded that the condition was brought on by the stress of being interrogated. There was no question the cause of death was asthma. "The autopsy," says Dr. McDonough, "revealed the student's lungs were highly inflated like a balloon, which is a textbook example of post-mortem asthma. Mustafa Barakat died of a disease which he didn't have. He wasn't shot or tortured, nor were there any blunt blows to his body. His death was also recorded as the fifth while in custody."

The reason for being questioned was that he spent three years in Jordan and was a suspect," says Dr. McDonough whose offices are located at the University of Connecticut in Farmington.

During his stay in Jerusalem, Dr. McDonough says he was nervous, because he had "no idea what he was getting into, but the Palestinians treated me like family." The Israeli officers were cool, but certainly not unpleasant or threatening.

"The Israelis want to get rid of the Palestinians. They say 'Join our country or leave,' and the Palestinians want to rule their own country. The Israelis have

the attitude they will never give up Israel, so they are treating the Palestinians badly so they will leave."

"I am neither Jewish nor Palestinian, but the Israelis saw me from a threatening position. Israel sees itself under siege or almost at war, and therefore there are armed soldiers standing on every corner in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and I found it somewhat disturbing," says Dr. McDonough.

"I still have difficulty believing I had this opportunity, and it has been quite an eye opener. I have made reports and plan to give a presentation to people in my office and also to students. I will also make presentation at the national meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists in February 1993."

"Most of what I saw of Israel was from a car. It is a somewhat bleak country, with olive trees, desert and small mountains. It's like 18th century living mixed with 20th century living, says Dr. McDonough, who was anxious to return home to his family in Bethel after having "one of the most educational experiences of his life." — The Bethel Home News, Connecticut.

## Scientists warn of possible swift change in climate

By Sabine Guez

NEW YORK — Nothing is less certain than today's weather forecast for next month. Wrong! Try forecasting the weather for the next century and you'll find yourself on even more slippery ground. The Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in June was deluged with alarming, climate-driven environmental predictions and contradictions.

Based on the study of a rare core sample of sediments from the bottom of the ocean, two scientists at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), near Boston, are adding a new twist. The "greenhouse warming" of the planet might lead to sudden shifts in the ocean circulation system which, in turn, could result in dramatic cooling around the North Atlantic, they report. "Our results suggest that the present climate system is very delicately poised," says scientist Scott J. Lehman, author of the new study along with Lloyd D. Keigwin, also of WHOI's Geology and Geophysics Department. "The system could snap suddenly between very different conditions with an abruptness that is scary."

The ocean "conveyor belt" circulation system that carries heat from the equator toward the poles drives climate change, according to Mr. Lehman. The two scientists have brought new evidence that the route of the warm ocean currents or Gulf Stream, which keeps northern Europe's air temperatures relatively benign, diverted many times to the south and then back northward again at the close of the Ice Age. It triggered violent climate change in as few as 40 years — next to no time in geological terms. Under the right conditions, the study shows, the circulation system could turn off again — and do so very quickly.

The findings are based on the study of skeletal remains of microscopic, shell-forming animals present in a sediment core taken from the Norwegian sea. Ocean scientists have long used these planktonic organisms, which have known temperature tolerances, as tiny thermometers for tracking water temperatures over time. This is the first ocean bottom core with rates of sediment accumulation rapid enough to document these sudden changes. The core was made available to scientists by an oil exploration firm prospecting off the coast of Norway.

"The warm Gulf Stream current also allows warm-living plankton to live at fairly high latitudes," Mr. Lehman notes. "If we look at these sediment cores and find that those plankton were absent at times in the past, we can deduce that the Gulf Stream was not penetrating as far north as it is today."

Normally the oceans act as a sort of conveyor belt for heat in a journey around the world that is thought to last about 500 days. As the warm surface waters float through the Caribbean, wrap around Florida and then head north and east, they evaporate and increase in salt content. "As these Gulf Stream waters flow towards the cold Norwegian sea, they release much of their heat to the atmosphere and become too dense to sink," Mr. Lehman explains. "This new water mass, known as North Atlantic Deep

Water, then travels south through the Atlantic, around Africa and through the Indian Ocean into the Pacific like a conveyor belt. New warm surface water is drawn northward to replace this water and the cycle repeats itself." A freshening of the surface waters could shut off the circulation system because the subsequently reduced salinity would prevent the water from achieving the density necessary to sink.

If greenhouse warming occurs and leads to increased amounts of precipitation in the Arctic and/or melting of snow and ice, the Norwegian limb of the conveyor might be threatened, leading to very rapid changes in ocean conditions and climate," notes Mr. Lehman. "In such a scenario, the present climate of Norway and Britain would change suddenly to that of Greenland and Northern Canada." Not only would there be no roses in London for Christmas, but fisheries would also be dramatically affected. Sea ice would increase its fringe to the south, and, as a consequence, fish stocks relying on the presence of warm waters would diminish.

Other scientists, such as climatologist Wallace Broecker of Columbia University, earlier suggested that the circulation system had oscillated between an off and on mode during the last glaciation, which culminated about 18,000 years ago. Some Danish researchers showed that the last of a series of strong temperature variations at that time was marked by sudden warming of probably as much as 7°C in 50 years. Mr. Lehman and Mr. Keigwin could provide the first direct evidence of that process from the high accumulation rate of sediments in the ocean bottom core they analysed. "The problem in resolving events in the deep sea is twofold," explains Mr. Lehman. "First, most ocean sediments accumulate slowly and provide a fairly blurred image of events. Second, the organisms that live on the bottom stir the sediments — what we call bioturbation — so they're taking away the signal you hoped to catch. Cores with such a long undisturbed record (as the Norwegian one) are rarely available to ocean scientists because of the high cost of recovery. The deposition rates are so high that even with a small amount of stirring on the bottom we still see a good signal. That's why we were able to document changes that occurred within decades. Most ocean sediment cores have a resolution no better than 500 to 1,000 years."

The findings indicate that the Norwegian Sea limb of the conveyor belt was periodically turned off due to injections of fresh water at the end of the last Ice Age, between 8,000 and 13,000 years ago. "We know from prior studies that 18,000 years ago, when there were large ice sheets over North America and Scandinavia, the warm surface waters went straight across the Atlantic toward Spain rather than going into the Norwegian Sea as they do today. We found that 14,500 years ago conditions became warm in the northern Atlantic. They were relatively stable for a thousand years, but suddenly switched to cold, then suddenly back to warm again."

Using a recently developed radiocarbon dating technique,

the two scientists determined the age of the planktonic skeletons present in the sediment core, data they used to precisely calculate the rates of temperature changes. "We found that these changes occurred within 40 years... They correspond to the 'barn door' swinging from its present position to its glacial position and back again to its present position," Mr. Lehman said.

In the last 8,000 years, though, relative stability has prevailed. A cooling of 0.5 to 1°C occurred in Europe from the 16th to 18th centuries during the so-called Little Ice Age, but scientists are still not sure whether the cooling responded to a change in the conveyor belt. What triggers the mode-switching behaviour of the ocean circulation system remains to be thoroughly understood. However, Mr. Lehman and Mr. Keigwin have gathered evidence for meltwater discharge preceding each conveyor-off interval. Extreme warming during deglaciation could also have increased precipitation over high latitudes

— and may do the same again as a result of greenhouse emissions — allowing saltiness to drop to levels that would shut down the conveyor.

Yet, cautions Mr. Lehman, too many uncertainties envelop the greenhouse warming phenomenon to permit bold conclusions. "If global warming were leading to conditions that were incompatible with deep-water formation in the Norwegian Sea, you could expect very strong regional cooling. But we don't know whether it's going to take much more than some global warming to lead to those conditions," he said. The demonstrated unpredictability of climate change is cause for concern, however. Mr. Lehman points to the chain of global atmospheric events set off last year by El Niño, a huge pool of unusually warm surface water off the west coast of South America, as yet another example of the intimate ties between the climate and ocean systems. "The ocean has a capacity to behave very abruptly

and without much warning. This to us is worrisome because most (computer) modeling studies of what is going to happen as a result of doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> (pollution gases emitted mostly by industries) are predicated on very linear, smooth changes," he says.

A better understanding of how the surface waters freshened at the close of the last Ice Age will help anticipate how the atmosphere could work again in the future, notes Mr. Lehman. But, until further light is thrown on the intricacies of the climate system, the oceanographer recommends prudence. "What I'm afraid of is that the governments are going to be waiting for the scientific community to show without a doubt that global warming will have horrendous consequences. It may take 10 or 20 years for scientists to come to consensus on that issue. And if we wait until then, it may be too late to do anything about levels of greenhouse gases," he says. "At that time, CO<sub>2</sub> levels will have tripled not doubled" — World News Link.

## JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

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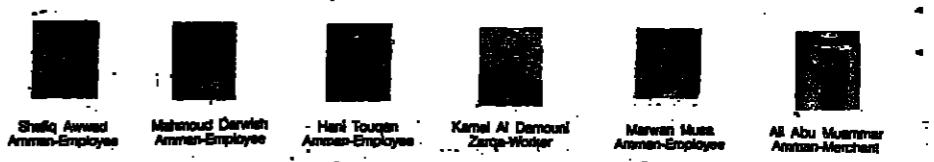
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## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

## champ to run in stock car jewel

TE (AP) — Defending Indianapolis 500 champion Al Unser Jr. will try for America's other big auto racing title this weekend. The 1990 IndyCar Series champion will drive a sports-prototype Chevrolet Lumina in the National Association of Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup Series race at Daytona International Speedway in Feb. 14. The premier open-wheel, single-seat open-cockpit series of the United States, while NASCAR is the primary circuit for stock cars, Dale Earnhardt, a five-time NASCAR champion who has driven against Unser numerous times in the Grand Prix of Champions series — which both have said, "little can drive any race car. If you give him a lap and some time to get the feel of the car, he'll be in front, no matter where he is." The only drivers who think the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500 are A.J. Foyt and Mario Andretti. Andretti won the race in 1967, the Indy 500 in 1969 and the World Cup in 1978.

## is go back to Metrodome

(AP) — The Washington Redskins will be starting off their season where they finished last year's playoffs: Back home. The defending Super Bowl champions play the Vikings in the first of four National League wild-card weekend games. Kansas City is at San Diego, while Houston, Dallas and Philadelphia are at New Orleans. They will be seeking to recreate the sparkle of its 37-24 victory over Buffalo in the 1992 Super Bowl.

## in marathon weekend ed with wheelchair race

— Disabled people from five countries with disabilities will be competing in the race, which will be held on Jan. 20 in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Philippines and Australia.

Prasopchok, a 20-year-old electronics repairman who was born without legs, has been competing for six years. He said after the race that he hopes someday to beat the world record, which is about 21 minutes.

The wheelchair race was the first of four scheduled events, which include a 10-kilometre "fund run" Saturday, and a marathon and half-marathon Sunday. The wheelchair race was the first international event of its kind held in Vietnam.

The streets were not level, and the wheelchairs sent water and sewage spraying up from potholes, said Hong Kong's Wong Chi-Keung, 25.

## IA STANDINGS

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT.	GB
<b>Atlantic Division</b>				
18	9	667	—	
16	12	.571	2 1/2	
13	11	.542	3 1/2	
12	17	.414	7	
8	17	.320	9	
8	18	.308	9 1/2	
8	20	.286	10 1/2	
<b>Central Division</b>				
21	7	.750	—	
17	12	.586	4 1/2	
14	12	.538	6	
14	13	.519	6 1/2	
13	15	.464	8	
12	15	.444	8 1/2	
11	15	.423	9	
<b>WESTERN CONFERENCE</b>				
<b>Midwest Division</b>				
18	8	.692	—	
14	11	.560	3 1/2	
14	12	.538	4	
7	19	.269	11	
5	19	.208	12	
2	22	.083	15	
<b>Pacific Division</b>				
21	4	.840	—	
18	8	.692	3 1/2	
17	8	.680	4	
15	11	.577	6 1/2	
15	12	.556	7	
15	13	.536	7 1/2	
10	16	.385	11 1/2	

## GOREN BRIDGE

BAR SHARF  
AH HIRSCH  
Media Services, Inc.

## TOMMY STRIKES AGAIN

vulnerable. South quite happy to arrive in the right situation — something that could be a hit-or-miss affair with Tommy at the helm. Fortunately, North turned up with a doubleton in one of the pointed suits, so after a spade lead it looked as if the slate might succeed. There was a certain diamond loser, but if the queen of trumps could be picked up, all would be well.

Declarer won the king of spades, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. When East discarded on a trump to the ace, Tommy seemed to grow in stature. Most declarers would quickly have conceded one or two, but not our hero.

Another club ruff was followed by the ace of spades and a spade ruff. The last club was ruffed and the ace and king of diamonds were cashed, reducing all hands to three cards. Tommy had the KJ of trumps and a diamond, while West was down to three trumps.

The hint of a triumphant smile crossed Tommy's face as he exited with a diamond. West was forced to ruff, and his heart return into Tommy's major menace meant the defendant had been limited to only one trick. Amazing!

## Australia defeats S. Africa in Hopman Cup

PERTH (AP) — Nicole Provis and Wally Masur upset higher-ranked opponents Saturday and lifted Australia to victory over sixth-seeded South Africa in the first round of the \$490,000 Hopman Cup team tennis tournament at the Burswood Superdome.

Provis saved a match point in the final set tie-breaker to defeat Amanda Coetzer 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) in a two-hour 45-minute opening women's singles.

Masur then cruised past out-of-touch power-server Wayne Ferreira 7-5, 6-3, in the men's singles, dropping serve only once in the match.

Provis is ranked 47th in the world — 30 places behind Coetzer — but kept her nerve in a tight struggle marked by long baseline rallies and numerous unforced errors by both players.

Masur returned serve effectively and was more consistent than Ferreira, despite being ranked 38th in the world to the South African's 11th.

A disgruntled Ferreira was given a code of conduct warning late in the match after throwing his racket into the air.

Masur's victory took him only one hour and 20 minutes. He volleyed impressively and constantly kept the pressure on his opponent.

Unseeded Australia now will play the second-seeded Czech Republic team in the quarterfinals of the tournament, which features a unique format of men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles matches.

Top-seeded Germany, represented by Michael Stich and Steffi Graf, has a first-round bye and will meet the winner of the Ukraine-Austria contest in the quarterfinals.

The second-seeded Czech Republic team of French Open runner-up Petr Korda Cup for Spain in 1990 and is seeded third ahead of the United States team of Petr Korda and Mary Joe Fernandez.

Switzerland, which will feature Claudio Mezzadri and Manuela Maleeva-Fraguere, is only the eighth seed despite winning the 1992 Hopman Cup when it was represented by Jakob Hlasek and Maleeva-Fraguere.

The Swiss combination faces unseeded Japan later.

Nine of the 12 competing teams are represented by their top-ranked male and female players.

The tournament, sponsored by Pepsi, is being played on synthetic rebound ace courts, offers a first prize of \$105,000 and continues through Jan. 8.

It is one of a series of lead-up events before the Australian Open, which is slated for Jan. 18-31 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Jordan selected top sportsman by L'Equipe

PARIS (AP) — Basketball star Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls was selected Saturday as the "champion of champions" for 1992 by the French daily sports newspaper, L'Equipe.

In announcing the prize, awarded by a poll of L'Equipe writers, the paper acknowledged that a key to choosing Jordan was the dream team's stunning success in the Summer Olympics at Barcelona.

"The presence of all the stars on the small screen during the Games of Barcelona left traces in our memories," L'Equipe said. The paper also credited Jordan to leading the Bulls to a second consecutive NBA title.

Jordan is one of the most recognizable American athletes in France. He appears in commercials and advertisements, and his athletic exploits are well-documented on television.

Carl Lewis, the 1991 L'Equipe winner, was second to Jordan in the voting.

Third went to Nigel Mansell of Britain, who dominated the Formula One racing circuit. He won nine races on his way to the World Title, then announced he was shifting to Indycars in 1993.

Jordan's victory marked the third time in four years that L'Equipe named an American as its top sportsman. Besides Lewis last year, Greg Lemond won in 1989 after his fabulous comeback victories in the Tour De France and world championship.

Back home, local headlines that screamed "it's Atlanta" when the city was chosen as the host of the games have now been replaced by sober entries such as the recent "honeymoon is over."

Whatizit, a computer-generated shapeless blue blob, was roundly criticised by media around the world and was taken by some as an apt symbol of Atlanta's perceived inadequacy.

Atlanta, the conventional wisdom went, will come off as a hick town pretending to be a world-class city.

Whatizit, though popular with youngsters, continues to be a target of Olympic critics.

Colin Campbell, a columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, recently received more than 3,000 responses from readers to his poll on the Atlanta

## Olympic-size anxiety as Atlanta looks to '96 Games

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta, that most overachieving of cities, has come down with a serious case of high anxiety over its biggest prize: The 1996 Olympics.

Once giddy over being given the opportunity to cement its coveted status as an international metropolis, the city now appears gripped with insecurity.

"As a city, we are not ready to host an event of that magnitude," said Ruby Lerner, who runs a media arts centre in Atlanta and has been a critic of the local Olympics leadership.

"Atlanta is a very young city and its achievements, given its youth, are remarkable. But it's like a kid who skips grades in school and doesn't develop all the social skills," said Lerner, executive director of the Image Film-video centre.

The insecurity surfaced at the end of the successful Barcelona Games, when Atlanta accepted the Olympic torch with the introduction of the 1996 mascot. Whatizit.

Whatizit, a computer-generated shapeless blue blob, was roundly criticised by media around the world and was taken by some as an apt symbol of Atlanta's perceived inadequacy. Atlanta, the conventional wisdom went, will come off as a hick town pretending to be a world-class city.

Whatizit, though popular with youngsters, continues to be a target of Olympic critics.

Colin Campbell, a columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, recently received more than 3,000 responses from readers to his poll on the Atlanta

Olympics. When asked to describe their feelings about Whatizit, the vast majority of 300 randomly selected respondents chose "hated it" over "loved it" or "don't really care."

Asked if they feel "confident" the 1996 Olympics will come off well and Atlanta will be better off for it, Campbell said 240 of 300 answered "no."

"This is upsetting. This is alarming," Campbell said.

Lerner and others fret that Atlanta officials, desperate to make a good impression in the wake of Whatizit, may overcompensate and bury the area's unique cultural mainstays, such as folk artist Howard Finster or the variety drive-in. "It's the quirky things, the offbeat things, that give a city character," she said.

Some city officials are worried that the media played a role in creating that anxiety at a time when these people (Olympic planners) were trying to assess what they saw in Barcelona," said Cohn, chairman of Atlanta-based Cohn and Wolfe.

While he declined to share his opinion of Whatizit, Cohn acknowledged that the choice surprised a lot of people who thought a mascot would better reflect Atlanta's personality.

"People looked at that and said, 'we didn't expect that,'" he said.

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## Iran plans to join GATT

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, pressing on with a drive to join the mainstream of the world economy, plans to become a member of GATT, the main legislative and negotiating framework for international trade.

Sirous Nasseri, ambassador to the United Nations' European office in Geneva, expressed Iran's interest in joining GATT in a meeting with its Director-General Arthur Dunkel, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said quoting Tehran press reports.

"Nasseri called for GATT's cooperation to accelerate Iran's joining the agreement," it said.

Mr. Dunkel said the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would help Iran's membership bid by sending experts and holding seminars to inform Iranian organisations about GATT regulations.

Mr. Nasseri pointed to Iranian measures to "change tariffs, step up non-oil exports and create free trade and economic zones with other countries" as part of its new economic policies.

## Russia creates foreign investment agency

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has created a foreign investment agency under Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhlin to attract more Western capital as it implements free-market reforms, government officials were quoted as saying.

Kirill Ivanov, deputy head of the new Russian Agency for International Cooperation and Development (Ramsir), told Izvestia newspaper the agency would coordinate investment policy between various government ministries.

"Until now each of our ministries has had its own investment policy. Such a situation is inadmissible. Therefore the main task of Ramsir is to take the lead in making sure this policy is unified," Mr. Ivanov said.

The agency would run a political risk insurance fund, a project finance centre and a technical cooperation agency, Izvestia quoted him as saying.

## Turkmens get free gas, power and water

MOSCOW (R) — Consumers in the gas-rich former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan are to receive supplies of gas, electricity and water free of charge from the new year, Commonwealth Television said.

The television, in a report Friday night, said Turkmenistan's President Saparmurat Niyazov had taken the decision despite widespread opposition in the underdeveloped but resource-rich republic bordering Iran.

"The president said no one would ever make him change his mind," a television commentator said.

"Such an approach to social issues increases people's incomes in real terms instead of giving them bank notes that depreciate with the speed of light," he said.

Television said he had decided that the Central Asian state could afford to give to its own people one billion of the 80 billion cubic metres of gas extracted annually from the Kara-Kum Desert.

Despite being one of the poorest of the former 15 Soviet republics, Turkmenistan is also self-sufficient in electricity.

## Egyptian premier says 1992 was a good year for economy

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has done well economically in 1992 by cutting its debts drastically and boosting revenues by 13 per cent, Prime Minister Atef Sedki said.

In his year-end statement, he said Egypt has cut its debts from 17 countries by 50 per cent and managed to scrap military debts to the United States and Gulf states after it took part in the 1991 U.S.-led alliance against Iraq.

Mr. Sedki did not give a figure for the military debts but official sources said they totalled about \$14 billion.

"In general our revenues, transfers by expatriates and official transfers in 1991/1992 reached \$19 billion against \$16.8 billion in the previous fiscal year," that ends on June 30, he told parliament.

He said the rise — from an unprecedented flood of tourists, transit tolls from the Suez Canal, transfers from expatriates and import tariffs — generated a surplus of \$5 billion in 1991/1992 compared with \$1.4 billion in the previous year.

"As a result, the central bank's foreign currency reserves rose from \$6.3 billion at the end of March 1991 to \$10.5 billion at the end of June 1992 with an increase of \$4.2 billion or 66.7 per cent."



Atef Sedki

Mr. Sedki said.

He said an economic reform programme, applied with the help of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has "decreased the deficit in the state budget to 7.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 1991/1992 against 24.7 per cent in 1987/1988."

He forecast the deficit to drop to four per cent in 1992/93 through an expected increase in revenues following measures to cut expenditures and boost productivity.

To combat inflation, the government has cut the state budget

deficit by financing it with real savings and by imposing credit ceilings on public and private enterprises.

These measures have slashed inflation from 20.7 per cent at the end of June 1991 to only 9.7 per cent in June 1992, he said.

The value of imports also shrank from \$11.4 billion in 1990/91 to \$10.3 billion in 1991/1992 due to rising domestic production of some commodities which were imported from abroad.

He said the liberalisation of Egypt's socialist economy which began in 1991 gave the banking sector a big boost. Egypt's four state-owned banks — National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria Bank, Cairo Bank, and Misr Bank — have increased their capital by 2.9 billion pounds \$70.9 million.

Other banks have boosted their capital due to competition in the free market and good business in 1992.

Mr. Sedki said banks capital will continue growing until they reach the international standards.

Reforms in the banking system resulted in a big increase in savings to 110 billion Egyptian pounds — 57.3 per cent in local currency and the rest in foreign currency in June 1992 from 93

billion in 1991 of which 42.8 per cent were in local currency and 57.2 per cent in foreign currencies, he said.

He said the government was trying to cut high rates of unemployment through next projects in which an estimated 154 billion pounds (\$42.5 billion) will be invested over the next five years. He expected these projects to create jobs for 2.5 million people.

Mr. Sedki did not give a figure on unemployment, which he described as "one of the most dangerous problems that threaten the stability and cohesion of the Egyptian society."

Egypt's GDP grew by a real five per cent in the past 10 years during which a total of 175 billion pounds was invested with the industrial, energy, agriculture and transport sectors taking the lion's share.

Mr. Sedki said Egypt's oil reserves swelled nearly 19 per cent to 6.3 billion barrels in 1991/1992 from 5.3 barrels in 1986/1987 thanks to 88 oil discoveries made since then.

As part of measures to prolong the life of these reserves, the government has switched to natural gas, whose consumption rose to 26 per cent from 19 per cent in 1986/1987.

## Tax reform may help Turkey narrow deficit

ANKARA (R) — A new tax reform proposal may help Turkey

reduce large public deficits, the leading cause of chronic inflation, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said.

"New tax reform proposals, if approved by parliament, would raise tax revenues significantly in 1993 and help contain public sector deficits," the OECD said in its latest Economic Outlook.

The reform package, which will reduce tax exemption rates and widen the taxation base, is expected to come before parliament in the coming weeks, Turkish officials say.

The 24-nation OECD said it projected greater restraint on public spending and "less monetisation of public deficits" is also assumed, which should help lower inflation in 1993 and 1994.

"Inflation could decelerate, but only to a little below 60 per cent by 1994," the OECD said.

It predicted consumer price inflation would be 66 per cent this year, slightly down from 68.6 per cent annually last October.

It forecast a 4.5 per cent rise in gross national product (GNP) in 1993 after an expected 5.5 per cent jump last year.

Exports, likely to be supported by a recent effective depreciation of the Turkish lira and recovery in GNP, were expected rise 5.6 per cent in 1993, slower than a projected import growth rate of 6.1 per cent.

"With a normalisation of net invisible revenues after the ending of Gulf-crisis-related grants, the current external account may remain in deficit by around 1.5 per cent of GNP," the OECD said.

## OECD says Italian growth could quicken by next year

ROME (R) — Italy's struggling economy could start growing faster by 1994 but correcting the country's bad financial habits would take much longer, the OECD said.

In its latest outlook, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said 1993 growth would be slow, dragged down by government belt-tightening measures.

These were introduced in a 1993 budget which Prime Minister Giuliano Amato said was intended to "pull Italy back from the brink" by saving \$9 billion this year.

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The Financial News, a newspaper supervised by the central People's Bank of China, said the new accounting method would bring China into line with other major countries in calculating foreign exchange reserves.

growth for this year at 1.5 per cent, up from last year's estimated 1.2 per cent, with further growth in 1994.

Within GDP, the OECD said net exports, which have benefited from the lira fall, should aid economic growth in 1993 and 1994. But rising interest payments will keep the current account of the balance of payments in large deficit.

The main forces shaping recovery in Italy include the higher exports, gains in gross fixed capital formation and a pickup in private consumption as the effects of the currency depreciation of fiscal policy is a prerequisite for the lira to rejoin the ERM," it said.

The OECD expected growth in gross domestic product (GDP) at 1.2 per cent last year, falling to 0.8 per cent in 1993 but rising to 1.7 per cent in 1994, with a pickup in depressed industrial output in 1994.

Italian government forecasts change frequently but in October the Bank of Italy estimated GDP

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## Accounting change slashes China's foreign exchange reserves

PEKING (R) — China has adopted a new method for calculating foreign exchange reserves, slashing the official tally to \$23.2 billion from over \$40 billion by subtracting holdings in one state bank, an official newspaper has said.

The old system of calculating foreign exchange did not conform to reality and was not good for making comparisons, the official newspaper said.

Peking's pile of foreign exchange reserves has grown fast as the country's export-led economic boom gathers pace.

China has also been trying to rig an array of trade laws, accounting practices and tariff rates as part of its campaign to regain admittance into the

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

China's total foreign exchange reserves this year had previously been set at about \$42 billion, a jump of 47 per cent over \$28.6 billion in 1990.

The Financial News said that, under the new calculations, China's foreign exchange reserves were much lower and actually slipped between August and September.

In September, Peking had \$23.2 billion in foreign exchange reserves against about \$24.3 billion in August. The Financial News said China also had 12.7 million ounces of gold.

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## Mediators propose splitting Bosnia in Geneva

GENEVA (AP) — International mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen Saturday proposed splitting Bosnia into two autonomous provinces as a way of ending the ethnic conflict.

Mr. Vance told leaders of the three warring factions gathered for their first face-to-face talks that the meeting was the "best chance for peace."

"The process we are starting today can make the difference between peace and war: between life and death for thousands of people," he told the political and military chiefs of the Bosnian government, Bosnian Croats and Rebel Serbs.

The compromise map presented to the meeting by Mr. Vance and European commented (EC) envoy Lord Owen set out 10 provinces, based on ethnic, geographical, economic and historical factors.

Some of the areas were ethnically mixed. Under the proposals, Serbs would have to give up control of some of the areas they have seized in the nine-month conflict.

The proposals provide for Bosnia to be decentralised with "most governmental functions carried out by its provinces." Foreign policy will be the responsibility of the central government. There was no detail on defence policy.

In a speech explaining the constitutional proposals, Lord Owen said all the provinces except Sarajevo should have separate, elected legislatures.

He said there should be equal representation of all three ethnic groups in Sarajevo to underpin its position as an "open city."

He said the Bosnian Serbs, who have seized 70 per cent of the republic, might have to withdraw from areas, including the strategic town of Bosanski Brod, on the border with Croatia. The town was captured last fall after a battle with Croat forces.

The proposals also provide for a single province grouping towns like Tuzla, Foca and Srebrenice that are the scene of heavy battles between Muslims and Serbs.

"We have to choose between

conflicting claims and we cannot stress enough how vital it is that everyone accepts that there can be no agreement without compromise, sometimes painful compromise," Lord Owen said.

The conference, scheduled to last for up to four days, is widely regarded as the last chance for a peaceful settlement before the U.N. Security Council resorts to military intervention by enforcing its "no-fly" ban against the Bosnian Serbs.

Serb leader Karadzic described the Vance-Owen compromise as "acceptable as a basis for starting the negotiation." However he repeated demands that the Serbs must have their own state.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said the proposals were acceptable.

Mr. Tudjman and Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic were invited in recognition of the influence Serb-led Yugoslavia and Croatia have over the respective factions in Bosnia.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said in a New Year's message that his government would not accept a peace deal forced upon them.

"We have just one solution left: Continue the combat, preserve what is liberated, liberate what is stolen and punish the criminals," he told Sarajevo Radio.

The Serbs have seized over 70 per cent of Bosnian territory in the conflict, which has left more than 17,000 dead and tens of thousands missing.

The drive to create ethnically separate areas has forced more than one million people out of their homes. Serbs have attracted most blame for the so-called ethnic cleansing.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has termed the conference as a last chance for the peace process.

Pressure is growing for the U.N. Security Council to enforce its "no fly" zone against the Serbs. There have been an estimated 300 military flights since the ban went into force at the end of last October.

The Muslim-led government

potentially stands to benefit from international intervention. It also hopes that Islamic nations, frustrated by what they see as international inactivity, will break the arms embargo and resume weapons sales to Bosnia.

Government troops are reportedly massed on a strategic mountain overlooking Sarajevo and may be planning an offensive to break the Serb stranglehold over the shattered capital.

Sarajevo has been without electricity and running water for three weeks, and U.N. officials say a natural gas pipeline has been cut off. Many houses have had walls or windows blown in. Renter adds: In Sarajevo sporadic small arms, machinegun and mortar fire could be heard overnight, but there was no sign of the Muslim offensive the Bosnian capital has been expecting for days.

United Nations officials say up to 10,000 Muslim fighters are massed on the heights overlooking Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serb army reported that Muslim fighters had threatened to destroy a dam in eastern Bosnia, releasing toxic waste into the river sace that could cause an ecological disaster.

The dam is in the Bratunac district bordering Serbia, an area that has seen heavy fighting on and off for months between Serbs and Muslims.

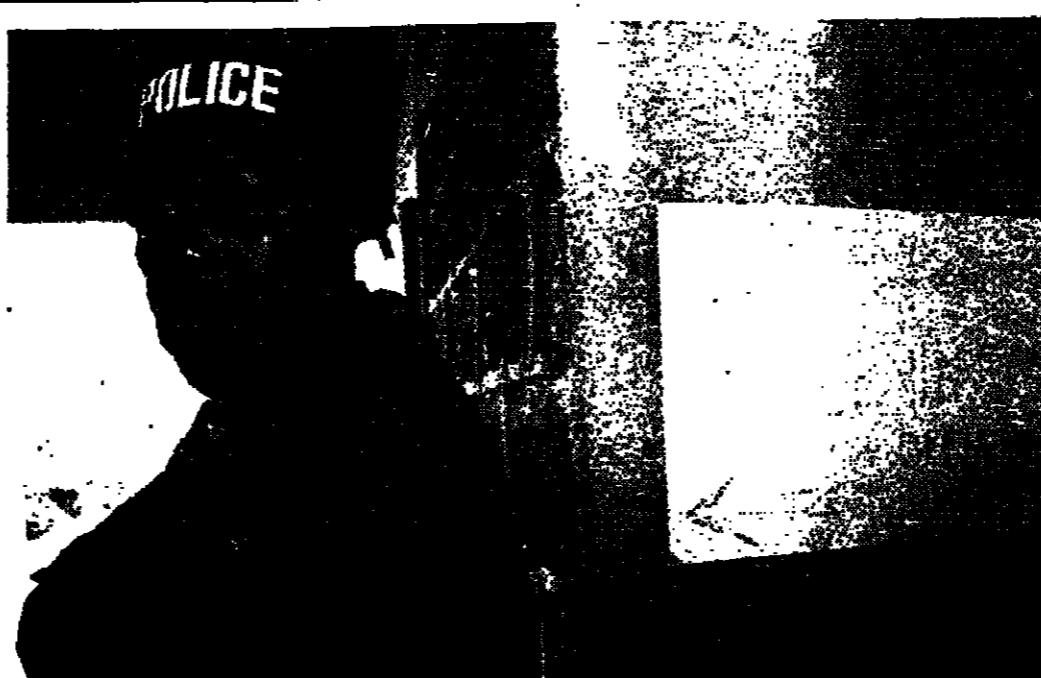
Spokesmen for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) denied reports that some staff had been pulled out of the capital or that the airift of relief supplies had been suspended.

They said two UNHCR flights were cancelled Friday because of fears that the fighting might spread but planes were arriving regularly Saturday.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, the government army press centre reported that fighting had died down since Friday but the town of Gradačac in the north was attacked by Serb infantry supported by artillery and fierce shelling of civilian targets.

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The Muslim-led government



A Kenyan policeman stands guard outside a vote-counting room (AFP photo)

## Kenyan political crisis deepens after polls give Moi victory

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya's political crisis has deepened after President Daniel Arap Moi indicated that he would crack down on opposition parties if they carried out their threat to reject the results of this week's election.

"I have restrained myself despite abuse for the last 12 months. This will now cease," Mr. Moi told Reuters television in his first meeting in 12 months with opposition leaders.

Three opposition parties, Ford-Kenyatta, Ford-Asili and the Democratic Party (DP) of Kenya, earlier raised the political temperature by saying they would not accept the results of the first multi-party polls in 26 years.

The three parties collectively polled more votes than Mr. Moi in the presidential election and took just under half the 188 seats in parliament, but claim they were cheated of outright victory by rampant ballot-rigging.

Mr. Moi, who has been in power since 1978, vehemently denied the allegation. He described opposition leaders as "liars" and accused them of driving the country towards civil war.

"If they wanted a multi-party system, they should have been the first to accept this result," he added. Fifteen of his ministers lost their parliamentary seats.

Final official results were due to be announced early next week. Latest returns late Friday gave Mr. Moi 1.8 million votes to a combined total of 2.9 million for the leaders of the three main opposition parties.

Kenya's opposition fell apart largely along tribal lines after overwhelming domestic and international pressure forced Mr. Moi, 68, in December 1991 to abandon one-party rule.

Foreign media reports of the Khmer Rouge shelling of a village at Sway Lea in Siem reap province on Thursday were "deliberately slanderous and ill-intended propaganda," a rebel spokesman said, according to the Khmer Rouge radio.

But a spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said the Khmer Rouge attack was intentional. It forced the evacuation of 45 U.N. personnel from the village after a ceasefire negotiation with the radical Cambodian faction.

The day-long attack, described as "deliberate shelling of military and electoral people," was connected with U.N. attempts to register voters for the May national elections, he said.

The Khmer Rouge spokesman, however, repeated charges by the fact that Vietnamese troops still remained in Cambodia and that UNTAC was collaborating with them.

"Any incident caused by the Vietnamese and their puppets is blamed on democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge)," he said in the radio statement.

Thai troops manned checkpoints on the border with Khmer Rouge-held Cambodia on Friday to shut down trade in line with U.N. sanctions slapped on the guerrillas after they reneged on an accord to end the country's civil war.

They were among 90 holy men who ended a four-day hunger strike to protest the government order halting prayers at the site in the town of Ayodhya on Tuesday.

On Friday, a local court ruled that Hindus had the right to pray, but said the authorities could regulate access to the site to

Fewer people than usual were on the streets of the capital Friday. Many restaurants and night clubs, normally busy during holiday periods, were closed.

"Kenyans have totally rejected Moi and we shall be letting the people of this country down if we allowed him to form the next government," Kenneth Matiba of Ford-Asili told reporters after his first meeting in 12 months with opposition leaders.

Mr. Moi riposted in the interview: "I have forgiven them for abusing me. But no further, enough."

Large numbers of armed police patrolled Nairobi Saturday. Fewer people than usual were on the streets and many restaurants and night clubs were closed.

European Community ambassadors warned the opposition against violence.

They said in a statement Saturday that however flawed, the polls marked a major step forward in the democratisation process in Kenya.

"The EC heads of mission hope that the opposition will pursue their complaints through constitutional means, including legal channels. The EC strongly opposed to violence from whatever quarter," the statement said.

"The people kept faith in us and voted against Moi, but it is us who will form the next government."

Many people fear violence, but from the surface in Kenya's stormy politics, will now replace dialogue.

In a sign of concern over the crisis, the Commonwealth secretary-general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, will arrive in Nairobi Sunday for talks with all sides, diplomats said.

The government visited the injured in the hospitals and went to the scene of the stampede.

## Hong Kong police fayed for stampede

HONG KONG (Agencies) — Hong Kong police came under fire Saturday for the deaths of 20 revellers crushed during a New Year's stampede in a crowded nightife area.

Politicians said police had previously been urged to limit the numbers allowed into Lan Kwai Fong, a warren of narrow alleys containing some of Hong Kong's trendiest bars and restaurants.

As thousands of revellers poured out of the bars to celebrate the New Year some of them slipped on cobblestones drenched with beer and party foam and were trampled underfoot.

Local government official Yuen Bun-Keung said if police had adopted proposals made earlier this month, including the use of loudhailers and entrance and exit points at crowded places, the disaster might have been avoided.

But the police said their initial inquiries indicated no one was to blame for the tragedy.

"All the statements we have taken so far seem to indicate that all we have here is a very tragic accident," said police spokesman Chief Superintendent Eric Lockyear.

Although police say the 120 officers on duty were enough to cope with the 20,000-strong crowd of merrymakers, several Chinese-language newspapers said police had underestimated the need for crowd control.

After a special meeting with top security advisers, Pong Kong Governor Chris Patten announced that he had ordered an independent inquiry into the tragedy.

Mr. Patten said the inquiry, to be headed by a high court judge, should produce some conclusions and recommendations before the Chinese new year, which falls on Jan. 23.

Police said between 15,000 and 20,000 people had crowded into the area, which quickly became slippery with spilled alcohol and confetti spray.

Of the injured, 15 were hospitalised, with three reported in critical condition. The others were treated and discharged, police said.

Weeping relatives and friends of the victims gathered at the two hospitals.

The 13 men and seven women who died were mostly teenagers and people in their 20s. They included three foreign men: Koji Niizuki, 27, from Japan; Jody Fullerton, 18, from Canada, and Michael Frith, 15, from Britain. Frith was the son of Hong Kong police force district commander.

The governor visited the injured in the hospitals and went to the scene of the stampede.

## COLUMN 18

Clinton plays football after running, cycling and playing golf

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (R) — Evoking memories of the Kennedy years, President-elect Bill Clinton played touch football Friday — and won.

On New Year's Day, Americans traditionally watch college football championships on television. But Mr. Clinton and his 12-year-old daughter, Chelsea, played their own game. Onlookers were more interested in Bill and Chelsea, as they were called by their teammates, than in the game, which Mr. Clinton's team won 21-7. Touch football was a favourite game of John F. Kennedy and his friends during his presidency. Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary, did not watch the game, retiring to their borrowed house after a bike ride with her husband.

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The governor visited the injured in the hospitals and went to the scene of the stampede.

Many people fear violence, but from the surface in Kenya's stormy politics, will now replace dialogue.

Many in Slovakia also welcomed independence after centuries of playing second fiddle — first to Hungary, which ruled Slovakia until after World War I, then to the more populous and urban Czechs.

But unlike Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union, where nationalist passions have translated into war, Czechoslovakia's split was accomplished peacefully, a fact Mr. Klaus emphasized with pride Friday.

"We had to prove that even such a painful act as a division of state... can be done in a civilised and cultured way," he told Czech Radio.

Mr. Klaus said the split was inevitable, but that the new realities should allow cooperation with Slovakia and strengthen stability in Central Europe.

China to stage first nude scene

PEKING (R) — China's avant-garde theatre scene is testing new frontiers in the New Year by staging the country's first nude scene this week — at the China Children's Art Theatre, the official China daily said Saturday.

"He was belligerent. But a crime computer check confirmed his identity. Within hours, Rivera was escorted back to prison. State police said he would be charged with escape. Rivera failed to return from a weekend furlough in June 1990. When he fled, Rivera had served five years of an eight to 20-year sentence for third-degree murder in the 1984 shooting of an acquaintance.

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Doctor gets off on the wrong foot

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has expelled a Bangladeshi doctor who operated on the wrong leg of a patient with a broken bone. The Iranian News Agency said the doctor, who was working at a hospital in Semnan, southeast of Tehran, had been given one month to leave Iran.